

FORUM

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION - EXISTING SITUATION

The Area Planning Board, as part of its HUD "701" Comprehensive Planning Program, is preparing an Historic Preservation Study of Palm Beach County. The Study will consist of an inventory of the existing situation involving historic preservation at the local, state, and national level. The Study should be available in May of 1979, and interested parties desiring a copy of it should contact the Area Planning Board by letter or telephone, attention of Mr. Paul Larsen.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

As defined in Websters dictionary, history "is a chronological record of significant events including an explanation of their causes." History lives in every person alive today, for what has taken place guides us in our daily decision making processes be they personal, business or government related. It is the root or foundation upon which we build our tomorrows. An understanding of history, of past events and the characters involved in these events gives us a tool by which to measure what may be.

The need to preserve historic properties rests in the benefit that can be realized by the people. Any effort that gives a sense of orientation and belonging, and that may inspire individuals in our society must be considered a just cause warranting further consideration.

THE KEY TO PRESERVATION

Historic Preservation activities are generally those actions taken to preserve and protect properties or objects deemed to have some significant historic value of a local, state, or national nature. The significance attached to such properties and objects is usually related to archeology, prehistory and history, science, commerce, industry, government, culture, architecture, significant events and characters.

The key to historic preservation, or the protection given to designated historic properties, is in the

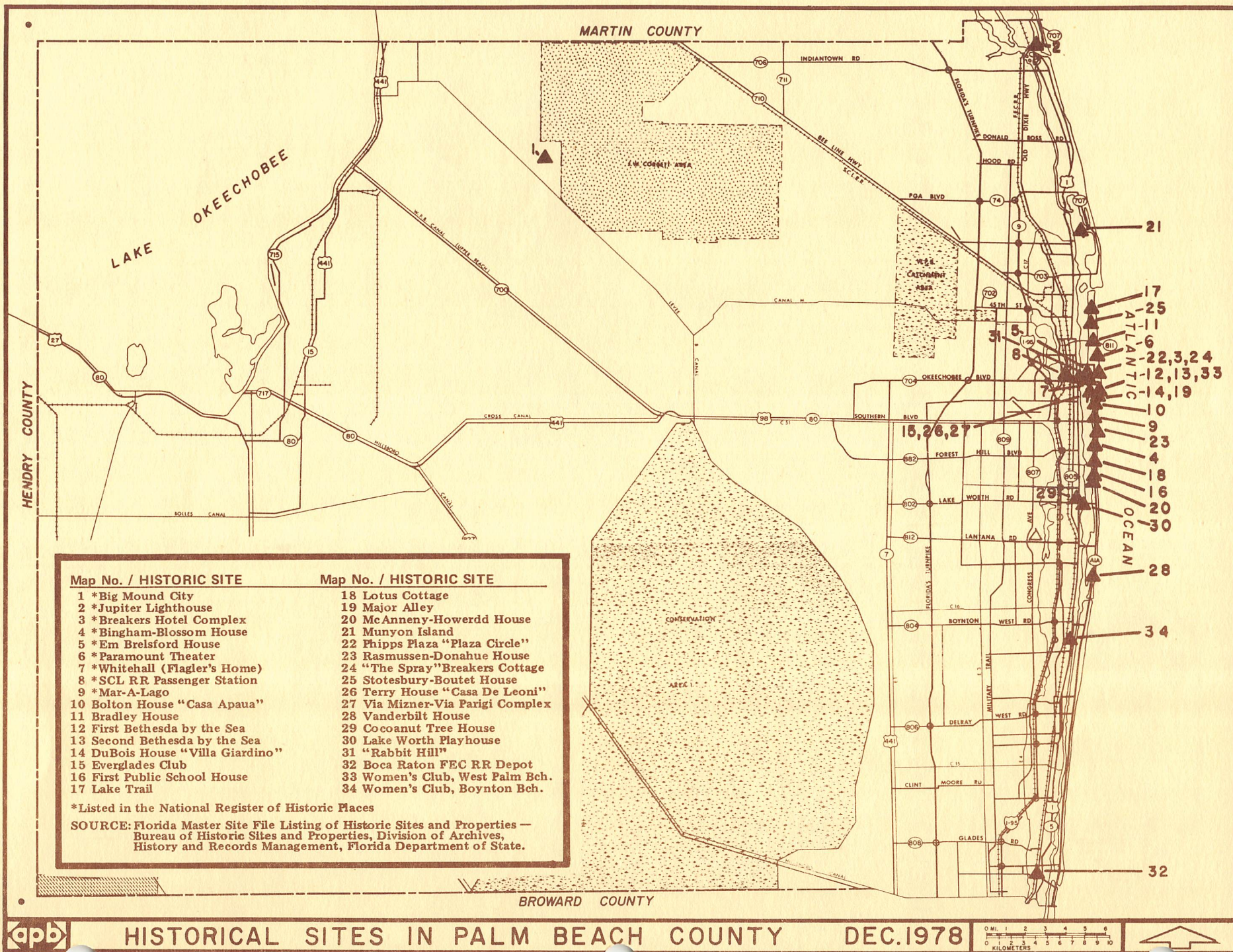


Jupiter Lighthouse -- 1860

review process applied to an undertaking, whether it be federal, state or local, public or private, to determine the possible impact such an undertaking will or might have on said properties. Unless these properties are identified, they cannot be included or addressed in such a review. Herein lies the need for those agencies responsible for reviewing and permitting to address the existence of historic properties within their respective jurisdictions or to have such a survey conducted.

FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL ACTIONS

The efforts of historical societies/clubs and individuals interested in history have usually been the means through which properties have been identified. Subsequently, through active involvement with responsible public and private agencies, such properties have been set apart, in their most natural





Breakers Hotel Complex — 1925

state, from the influence of development activities or any undertaking that could result in the loss of such properties, including the degrading effects of time and nature. Their efforts are commended and to some degree have been enhanced by the enactment of federal and state legislation and local ordinances which are specifically aimed at historic preservation activities.

The federal government's initial effort in the area of historic preservation was the enactment of the Antiquities Act of 1906. This Act addressed the need to protect objects of antiquity and the designation of national monuments on lands belonging to, or under the control of, the United States. Subsequent legislation broadened the federal government's role in historic preservation and addressed the need to preserve properties, etc., beyond those situated on lands belonging to the United States and having national significance, to properties of historical significance at the State and local level. The Acts created to



1st Schoolhouse — 1886

this point in time are the Historic Sites Act of 1935, The National Trust for Historic Preservation of 1949, the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and Executive Order No. 11593 entitled "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment", promulgated by President Richard M. Nixon in 1971.

The State of Florida, through the Department of State, Division of Archives, History and Records Management, administers a comprehensive statewide survey and plan for historic properties in Florida. The State survey is an ongoing process which is presently involved in Palm Beach County through the efforts of the Historic Boca Raton Preservation Board of Commissioners which was established by Florida Statute, Chapter 266.301, in 1974.

Palm Beach County has thirty-eight (38) separate governmental jurisdictions; thirty-seven (37) municipalities and the unincorporated County. Of these



SCL Railroad Passenger Station — 1925

governmental bodies, three (3) have enacted major ordinances/resolutions aimed at historic preservation. These are the City of Boca Raton (Historic Preservation Board), the Town of Palm Beach (Landmarks Preservation Commission), and the Board of County Commissioners acting in behalf of the Unincorporated County (Palm Beach County Historical Commission).

There are also several historical societies in Palm Beach County with membership open to the general public. These are the Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Glades, Loxahatchee (Jupiter Tequesta area) and the Palm Beach County Historical Societies.

The map illustrated on page 2 of this newsletter shows those historic sites in Palm Beach County that are currently listed in the National and State Registers of Historic Places. The number of sites illustrated is not indicative of the actual number of historic sites that exist in Palm Beach County, for only those sites that have been nominated for inclusion in the aforementioned list and so designated at the State and National level are shown.

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